

Claims

1. A method for reallocating transport format combination identifiers (TFCI) of transport format combinations (TFC) upon removal of at least one transport format combination to be performed in a wireless system utilizing a flexible layer one to transfer data over the air interface thereof, where a number of transport formats (TF) indicating configurations of transport channels carrying data flows are included in a transport format combination, the transport format combination belonging to a transport format combination set (TFCS) indicating transport format combinations valid on a certain basic physical subchannel, characterized in that it has the steps of
 - 5 -obtaining information about removal of at least one transport format combination from the transport format combination set in order to determine a first transport format combination identifier become vacant due to the removal of the associated transport format combination (506),
 - assigning said first vacant transport format combination identifier to a next unremoved transport format combination, if any, having a transport format combination identifier subsequent to the removed transport format combination, and likewise assigning the following transport format combination identifiers to further unremoved transport format combinations, if any, thus a number of last transport format combination identifiers previously in use become vacant (508, 510), and
 - 20 -reducing the length of the transport format combination identifiers by an amount dependent on the additional length required to be used to indicate a certain transport format combination identifier if the number of last transport format combination identifiers become vacant still included (514).
2. The method of claim 1, wherein it is further checked whether the removal concerns a transport format combination identifier the removal of which is not allowed, in which case neither the removal nor transport format combination identifier reallocation is performed (505).
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said transport format combination is reserved for signalling use.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the transport format combination identifier of said transport format combination is the first one available.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said wireless system utilizes GERAN (GSM/EDGE Radio Access Network) as a radio access network.

6. A method for reallocating a transport format combination identifier (TFCI) of a transport format combination (TFC) upon removal of at least one transport format combination to be performed in a wireless system utilizing a flexible layer one to transfer data over the air interface thereof, where a number of transport formats (TF) indicating configurations of transport channels carrying data flows are included in the transport format combination, the transport format combination belonging to a transport format combination set (TFCS) indicating transport format combinations valid on a certain basic physical subchannel, characterized in that it has the steps of

-obtaining information about removal of a transport format combination from the transport format combination set in order to determine a transport format combination identifier become vacant due to the removal of the associated transport format combination (506),

-assigning the vacant transport format combination identifier to an unremoved transport format combination having a subsequent transport format combination identifier (510), and

-reducing the length of the transport format combination identifiers if enabled by the assigning step (514).

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said unremoved transport format combination having a subsequent transport format combination identifier is the one with the last transport format combination identifier.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said unremoved transport format combination having a subsequent transport format combination identifier is the one the transport format combination identifier of which is closest to said vacant transport format combination identifier.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the length is reduced by an amount dependent on the additional storage space required to be used to indicate a certain transport format combination identifier if the last transport format combination identifier become vacant still included (514).

10. A device operable in a wireless system utilizing a flexible layer one to transfer data over the air interface thereof, where a number of transport formats (TF) are adapted to

- indicate configurations of transport channels carrying data flows included in a transport format combination (TFC), and the transport format combination is adapted to belong to a transport format combination set (TFCS) indicating transport format combinations valid on a certain basic physical subchannel, the set including one
- 5 transport format combination with a transport format combination identifier, said device comprising processing means (602) and memory means (604) configured to process and store instructions and data, and data transfer means (608) configured to transfer data, characterized in that it is arranged to
- 10 obtain information about removal of at least one transport format combination from the transport format combination set in order to determine a transport format combination identifier become vacant due to the removal of the associated transport format combination,
- assign the vacant transport format combination identifier to an unremoved transport format combination having a subsequent transport format combination identifier, and
- 15 reduce the length of the transport format combination identifiers if enabled by the assign procedure.
11. The device of claim 10, further arranged to execute the assign and reduce functionalities by assigning a first vacant transport format combination identifier to a next unremoved transport format combination, if any, having a transport format
- 20 combination identifier subsequent to the removed transport format combination, and likewise assigning the following transport format combination identifiers to further unremoved transport format combinations, if any, thus a number of last transport format combination identifiers previously in use become vacant, and
- by reducing the length of the transport format combination identifiers by an amount
- 25 dependent on the additional storage space required to be used to indicate a certain transport format combination identifier if the number of last transport format combination identifiers become vacant still included.
12. The device of claim 10, wherein said unremoved transport format combination having a subsequent transport format combination identifier is the one with the last
- 30 transport format combination identifier.
13. The device of claim 10, wherein said unremoved transport format combination having a subsequent transport format combination identifier is the one the transport

format combination identifier of which is closest to said vacant transport format combination identifier.

14. The device of claim 10, arranged to check whether the removal concerns transport format combination the removal of which is not allowed, in which case the device is further arranged to omit the removal of such transport format combination.
15. The device of claim 10 that is substantially a base station, a base station controller, a combination of a base station and a base station controller, or a mobile terminal.
16. The device of claim 10 that is operable in GERAN (GSM/EDGE Radio Access Network) radio access network.
17. The computer executable program adapted to execute the steps of claim 1 or 6.
18. The carrier medium carrying the computer program of claim 17.